

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for managing vehicle information pertaining to the function and operation of features of selected vehicles so as to provide information
5 pertaining to the function and operation of selected vehicle features of a vehicle to a user, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a computer having an information database for storing vehicle information;
 - (b) storing vehicle information in the database, said vehicle
10 information comprising information pertaining to the function and operation of vehicle features of selected types of vehicles, said vehicle information sortably stored as a plurality of audio-format data files, each said audio-format data file comprising information pertaining to the function and operation of at least one vehicle feature;
 - 15 (c) sorting said audio-format data files and selecting such said audio-format data files as correspond to a selected vehicle;
 - (d) storing said information of said selected audio-format data files in an audio-media storage device, said audio-media storage device adapted to store audio media tracks, said information of said selected audio-format data
20 files stored as selectable audio media tracks, each said audio media track comprising information of at least one selected audio-format data file, said

audio media storage device adapted for operation with an audio media player,
said audio media player adapted to play said audio media tracks; and

(e) providing said audio-media storage device to a user for playing
with an audio media player.

5 2. The method of Claim 1, said audio-media storage device adapted to
store analog audio track, each said audio media track comprising an analog
audio track.

3. The method of Claim 1, said audio-media storage device adapted to
store audio-format media files, each said audio media track comprising an
10 audio-format media file, each said audio-format media file comprising at least
one selected audio-format data file.

4. The method of Claim 1, said vehicle features comprising features
selected from the group including: component features, maintenance
requirements features, and ownership information features.

15 5. The method of Claim 4, said component features further comprising
features selected from the group including: keys and ignition; remote entry
system; power windows; power locks; power mirrors; trunk release
mechanism; fuel lid release mechanism; power seats; headlights; turn
signals; windshield wiper controls; emergency flashers; odometer; trip meter;
20 speedometer; tachometer; cruise control; emergency brake; radio; compact
disk player; cassette player; air conditioning, heating and climate control

systems; clock; multiple information display; warning lights; electro-chromic mirror; power outlets; external communication systems; cup holders; storage compartments; tires; seat belts; air bags; safety restraints; and sun shades.

6. The method of Claim 4, said maintenance requirements features
5 further comprising features selected from the group including: break in period operations; tire operating pressures; lubrication and hydraulic fluids requirements; heavy use maintenance schedules; preventative maintenance schedules; warning lights; troubleshooting guide; wear component replacement schedules; paint and upholstery cleaning; and repair contact
10 information.

7. The method of Claim 4, said ownership information features further comprising features selected from the group including: warranty information, disclaimers, financing information, sales; sales discounts; sales rebates; leasing information; sales contact information; customer personal
15 information.

8. The method of Claim 1, said method further comprising the step:
collecting selected vehicle index information as corresponds to said selected vehicle; and
said step of sorting said audio-format data files further comprising
20 sorting said audio-format data files by said selected vehicle index information

and selecting such said audio-format data files as corresponds to said selected vehicle further comprising,

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said vehicle index information comprising information selected from the group including: vehicle identification number; vehicle make; vehicle model; model year; model trim level; vehicle option package; vehicle options; financing program, sales programs, owner information.

10. The method of Claim 3, wherein, said audio-format data files having a first audio -format and said audio-format media files having a second audio-format, wherein, said first format being incompatible with said second format, said method further comprising the steps of:

reformatting each said selected audio-format data file so as to be compatible with said second format.

11. The method of Claim 1, said audio-format data files comprising data files having a format selected from the group including: MPEG audio layer 3 format (MP3) , Windows Media audio format (WMA), OGG format, VQF format, advanced standard audio coating format, WAV audio format (WAV), Digital Video Disc format (DVD), DVD audio format (DVDA), Compact Disc format (CD), Compact Disc Audio format (CDA), Super Audio CD format (SACD), VHS format, and a Real Audio format.

12. The method of Claim 3, said audio-format media files comprising media files having a format selected from the group including: MPEG audio layer 3 format (MP3) , Windows Media audio format (WMA), OGG format, VQF format, advanced standard audio coating format, WAV audio format 5 (WAV), Digital Video Disc format (DVD), DVD audio format (DVDA), Compact Disc format (CD), Compact Disc Audio format (CDA), Super Audio CD format (SACD), VHS format, and a Real Audio format.

13. The method of Claim 1, said audio-media storage device comprises a device selected from the group including: cassettes, compact discs, digital 10 video discs; computers; Mp3 players; and memory card devices.

14. The method of Claim 1, said audio-media player comprises a device selected from the group including: cassettes, compact discs, digital video discs; computers; Mp3 players; and memory card devices.

15. A method for providing information pertaining to the function and operation of selected vehicle features of a vehicle to a user, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing in an audio-media storage device adapted to store 5 audio-media tracks, said audio media storage device adapted for operation with an audio media player, said audio media player adapted to play said audio media tracks;
- (b) storing vehicle information in said audio-media storage device, said vehicle information comprising information pertaining to the function and 10 operation of vehicle features of a vehicle, said vehicle information selectively stored as a plurality of audio media tracks, each audio media track comprising information pertaining to the function and operation of at least one vehicle feature; and
- (c) providing said audio-media storage device to a user for playing 15 with an audio media player.

16. The method of Claim 15, said audio-media storage device adapted to store analog audio tracks, each said audio media track comprising an analog audio track.

17. The method of Claim 15, said audio-media storage device adapted to 20 store audio-format media files, each said audio media track comprising an audio-format media file.

18. The method of Claim 15, said vehicle features comprising features selected from the group including: component features, maintenance requirements features, and ownership information features.
19. The method of Claim 18, said component features comprising features selected from the group including: keys and ignition; remote entry system; power windows; power locks; power mirrors; trunk release mechanism; fuel lid release mechanism; power seats; headlights; turn signals; windshield wiper controls; emergency flashers; odometer; trip meter; speedometer; tachometer; cruise control; emergency brake; radio; compact disk player; cassette player; air conditioning, heating and climate control systems; clock; multiple information display; warning lights; electro-chromic mirror; power outlets; external communication systems; cup holders; storage compartments; tires; seat belts; air bags; safety restraints; and sun shades.
20. The method of Claim 18, said maintenance requirements features comprising features selected from the group including: break in period operations; tire operating pressures; lubrication and hydraulic fluids requirements; heavy use maintenance schedules; preventative maintenance schedules; warning lights; troubleshooting guide; wear component replacement schedules; paint and upholstery cleaning; and repair contact information.

21. The method of Claim 18, said ownership information features comprising features selected from the group including: warranty information, disclaimers, financing information, sales; sales discounts; sales rebates; leasing information; sales contact information; customer personal information.

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22. The method of Claim 15, said audio media storage device comprises a device selected from the group including: cassettes, compact discs, digital video discs; computers; Mp3 players; and memory card devices.

23. The method of Claim 15, said audio media player comprises a device selected from the group including: cassettes, compact discs, digital video discs; computers; Mp3 players; and memory card devices.

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24. The method of Claim 17, said audio-format media files comprising media files having a format selected from the group including: MPEG audio layer 3 format (MP3) , Windows Media audio format (WMA), OGG format, VQF format, advanced standard audio coating format, WAV audio format (WAV), Digital Video Disc format (DVD), DVD audio format (DVDA), Compact Disc format (CD), Compact Disc Audio format (CDA), Super Audio CD format (SACD), VHS format, and a Real Audio format.

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25. A vehicle information storage device, said vehicle information storage device comprising:

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an audio-media storage device adapted to store audio media tracks,
said audio media storage device further adapted for operation with an audio
media player, said audio media player adapted to selectively play said audio
media tracks,

5 a plurality of audio media tracks comprising vehicle information, said
vehicle information comprising information pertaining to the function and
operation of vehicle features of a vehicle, each audio media track comprising
information pertaining to the function and operation of at least one vehicle
feature, said plurality of audio media tracks stored on said audio-media
10 storage device.

26. The method of Claim 25, said audio-media storage device adapted to
store analog audio track, each said audio media track comprising an analog
audio track.

27. The method of Claim 25, said audio-media storage device adapted to
15 store audio-format media files, each said audio media track comprising an
audio-format media file.

28. The apparatus of Claim 25, said vehicle features comprising features
selected from the group including: component features, maintenance
20 requirements features, and ownership information features.

29. The apparatus of Claim 28, said component features comprising features selected from the group including: keys and ignition; remote entry system; power windows; power locks; power mirrors; trunk release mechanism; fuel lid release mechanism; power seats; headlights; turn signals; windshield wiper controls; emergency flashers; odometer; trip meter; speedometer; tachometer; cruise control; emergency brake; radio; compact disk player; cassette player; air conditioning, heating and climate control systems; clock; multiple information display; warning lights; electro-chromic mirror; power outlets; external communication systems; cup holders; storage compartments; tires; seat belts; air bags; safety restraints; and sun shades.

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30. The apparatus of Claim 28, said maintenance requirements features comprising features selected from the group including: break in period operations; tire operating pressures; lubrication and hydraulic fluids requirements; heavy use maintenance schedules; preventative maintenance schedules; warning lights; troubleshooting guide; wear component replacement schedules; paint and upholstery cleaning; and repair contact information.

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31. The apparatus of Claim 28, said ownership information features comprising features selected from the group including: warranty information, disclaimers, financing information, sales; sales discounts; sales rebates;

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leasing information; sales contact information; customer personal information.

32. The apparatus of Claim 25, said audio media storage device comprises a device selected from the group including: cassettes, compact discs, digital 5 video discs, computers, Mp3 players, and memory cards.

33. The apparatus of Claim 25, said audio media player comprises a device selected from the group including: cassette players, compact disc players, digital video disc players, computers, Mp3 players, and memory cards.

34. The apparatus of Claim 25, said audio-format media files comprising 10 media files having a format selected from the group including: MPEG audio layer 3 format (MP3) , Windows Media audio format (WMA), OGG format, VQF format, advanced standard audio coating format, WAV audio format (WAV), Digital Video Disc format (DVD), DVD audio format (DVDA), Compact Disc format (CD), Compact Disc Audio format (CDA), Super Audio 15 CD format (SACD), VHS format, and a Real Audio format.